

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ALUMINUM IN SEPTEMBER 2005

Domestic primary aluminum production in September was 199,362 metric tons (t), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The average daily production rate was 6,645 t, 1% lower than that of the previous month and about 2% below the rate for September 2004. Primary production for the first 3 quarters of 2005 was about 1% lower than that for the comparable period in 2004. The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot decreased to 86.45 cents per pound in September from 88.06 cents per pound in August, according to Platts Metals Week. The American Metal Market buying price range for aluminum used beverage cans (UBCs) trended downward during September. The price range began the month at 62–63 cents per pound. On September 7, the price range decreased to 60–62 cents per pound. On September 13,

the price range dropped to 60–61 cents per pound; and on September 19, the price range decreased further to 59–60 cents per pound and remained at this level through the end of the month.

Update

The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot increased substantially in October to 91.38 cents per pound. The American Metal Market buying price range for aluminum UBCs increased during October. On October 11, the price range increased to 61–63 cents per pound. On October 18, the price range increased a penny to 62–64 cents per pound and remained at this level through the end of the month.

TABLE 1
COMPONENTS OF ALUMINUM SUPPLY¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Primary production	Secondary recovery ²			Imports for consumption			Total new supply ³	Total stocks, end of period ⁴
		New	Old	Total	Metals and alloys, crude	Plates, sheets, bars, etc.	Total		
2004	2,516	1,870 ^r	1,160 ^r	3,030 ^r	3,250	938	4,180	9,730 ^r	1,470
2004:									
September	203	152	105	257	279	84	364	824	1,420
October	211	159	106	265	286	84	370	847	1,390
November	207	149	103	252	272	84	356	815	1,420
December	211	138	94	231	294	82	377	819	1,470
January-September	1,887	1,380	894	2,270	2,390	687	3,080	7,240	1,440
2005:									
January	209	163	95	258	334	90	425	892	1,510
February	191	157	91	248	289	97	386	825	1,450
March	214	171	96	267	262	105	367	847	1,480
April	211	162	95	257	372	104	476	943	1,500
May	214	159	98	257	372	104	476	947	1,520
June	206	153	96	249	324	107	431	886	1,500
July	210	170	96	267	324	104	428	904	1,550
August	208	167	96	262	264	110	374	845	1,550
September	199	156	92	248	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
January-September	1,862	1,460	855	2,310	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

^rRevised. NA Not available.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except "Primary production"; may not add to totals shown.

²Metallic recovery from purchased, tolled, or imported scrap, expanded for full coverage of industry.

³Primary production, secondary recovery, and imports for consumption.

⁴Inventory levels reflect total for both U.S. and Canadian producers; data from the Aluminum Association Inc.

TABLE 2
ESTIMATED FULL COVERAGE CONSUMPTION OF AND METALLIC RECOVERY FROM
PURCHASED NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Secondary smelters		Integrated aluminum companies		Independent mill fabricators		Foundries		Other consumers		Total	
	Consumption	Metal recovery	Consumption	Metal recovery	Consumption	Metal recovery	Consumption	Metal recovery	Consumption	Metal recovery	Consumption	Metal recovery
2004	1,800 ^r	1,330 ^r	754	668	994 ^r	929 ^r	101 ^r	90 ^r	9 ^r	8 ^r	3,650 ^r	3,030 ^r
2004:												
September	143	105	67	59	91	84	9	8	(2)	(2)	309	257
October	148	110	64	56	97	91	9	8	(2)	(2)	319	265
November	145	107	64	56	87	81	9	8	(2)	(2)	305	252
December	132	97	61	54	77	72	8	7	(2)	(2)	279	231
January-September	1,250	926	566	502	819	765	84	74	3	3	2,730	2,270
2005:												
January	147	106	64	57	93	87	9	8	(2)	(2)	313	258
February	146	105	63	56	84	79	8	7	1	1	301	248
March	150	108	67	60	97	91	8	7	1	1	323	267
April	146	106	66	59	90	84	8	7	1	1	311	257
May	151	109	69	61	85	80	8	7	1	1	313	257
June	138	103	67	60	84	79	9	8	1	1	299	249
July	141	102	92	83	79	74	8	7	1	1	321	267
August	151	109	77	69	82	77	8	7	(2)	(2)	319	262
September	148	107	65	58	80	75	8	7	(2)	(2)	302	248
January-September	1,320	955	630	563	774	725	74	65	6	6	2,800	2,310

^rRevised.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Less than 1/2 unit.

TABLE 3
CONSUMPTION OF AND RECOVERY FROM PURCHASED
NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP IN SEPTEMBER 2005¹

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
Secondary smelters	123,000	148,000	89,000	107,000
Integrated aluminum companies	65,200	65,200	58,000	58,000
Independent mill fabricators	67,000	80,400	62,700	75,200
Foundries	6,790	8,150	5,990	7,180
Other consumers	355	426	355	426
Total	263,000	302,000	216,000	248,000

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

TABLE 4
PURCHASED AND TOLL-TREATED ALUMINUM-BASE SCRAP AND SWEATED PIG IN SEPTEMBER 2005¹

(Metric tons)

	September				January-September ²	
	Stocks, opening	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed
New scrap:						
Extrusion	24,900 ^r	68,500	69,000	24,300	567,000	570,000
Can stock clippings	1,000	16,000	16,100	838	237,000	239,000
Other wrought sheet/clippings	8,490	22,900	23,300	8,080	211,000	212,000
Casting	1,220	7,630	7,580	1,270	71,700	71,800
Borings and turnings	8,160 ^r	12,900	12,900	8,160	122,000	117,000
Dross and skimmings	4,550 ^r	38,700	38,700	4,550	340,000	340,000
Total new scrap	48,300 ^r	167,000	168,000	47,200	1,550,000	1,550,000
Old scrap:						
Used castings	5,540 ^r	16,000	16,100	5,490	102,000	100,000
Used Extrusion	137	295	295	137	2,650	2,650
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	2,750	58,600	59,300	2,080	556,000	559,000
Other wrought products	5,690	8,230	8,230	5,690	127,000	127,000
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	2,840	10,400	10,300	2,930	96,700	96,200
Total old scrap	17,000 ^r	93,600	94,200	16,300	884,000	885,000
Sweated pig	303	742	756	289	6,460	6,770
Total all classes	65,600 ^r	261,000	263,000	63,800	2,440,000	2,440,000

^rRevised.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes revised data from previous month(s).

³Includes data on imported aluminum-base scrap.

TABLE 5
ALUMINUM ALLOYS PRODUCED AT SECONDARY SMELTERS IN THE UNITED STATES FOR 2005^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

	September				January-September ³	
	Stocks, opening	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing	Production	Net shipments
Die-cast alloys:						
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	5,090 ^r	1,990	1,470	5,620	14,600	11,800
380 and variations	2,620 ^r	17,300	17,300	2,620	150,000	152,000
Sand and permanent mold:						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	968 ^r	1,840	1,840	968	16,600	16,700
No. 319 and variations	2,620	6,240	6,250	2,610	58,500	58,400
F-132 alloy and variations	745	1,960	1,930	777	16,600	16,700
Al-Zn alloys	114	155	155	114	1,480	1,500
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	39	46	46	39	412	412
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	45	325	325	45	2,930	2,930
Other ⁴	7,220 ^r	4,460	6,240	5,440	53,900	54,800
Wrought alloys:						
Extrusion billets	11,400	24,500	25,100	10,800	221,000	222,000
Total all alloys	30,900 ^r	58,800	60,600	29,000	537,000	537,000
Less:						
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	12,200	XX	XX	113,000	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	2,160	XX	XX	20,100	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	627	XX	XX	6,040	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot ⁵	XX	43,700	XX	XX	398,000	XX

^rRevised. XX Not applicable.

¹Excludes integrated aluminum companies.

²Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

³Includes revised data from previous months.

⁴Includes alloys No. 12, Al-Mg, Al-Si-Cu-Ni, aluminum-base hardeners, variations of these alloys, plus other aluminum alloys.

⁵No allowance made for melt-loss of primary aluminum and alloying ingredients.

TABLE 6
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ALUMINUM IN AUGUST 2005¹

(Metric tons)

Country	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	August	January-August	August	January-August	August	January-August	August	January-August
Argentina	5,130	43,000	24	2,960	--	--	5,160	46,000
Australia	2,110	46,100	13	98	--	1,210	2,120	47,500
Bahrain	617	4,400	1,510	10,400	--	--	2,130	14,800
Belgium	--	18	1,070	9,420	28	28	1,100	9,460
Brazil	6,310	130,000	2,470	24,200	--	126	8,790	155,000
Canada	169,000	1,250,000	47,300	347,000	28,300	204,000	245,000	1,800,000
China	1,630	57,400	11,900	80,800	--	126	13,500	138,000
France	26	597	665	5,040	18	55	709	5,690
Germany	219	1,600	11,500	77,400	18	238	11,700	79,200
Hungary	--	--	629	2,920	--	--	629	2,920
Italy	144	510	330	1,980	--	--	473	2,490
Japan	37	431	1,590	13,400	31	359	1,650	14,100
Korea, Republic of	10	62	216	2,040	--	--	227	2,110
Mexico	--	--	2,160	14,900	10,100	74,100	12,200	89,000
Netherlands	20	331	348	1,990	--	--	368	2,320
Norway	--	4,060	40	106	--	2	40	4,170
Russia	51,400	661,000	4,010	42,300	456	4,530	55,900	708,000
South Africa	2,260	59,400	4,510	32,700	--	--	6,770	92,100
Spain	--	32	386	2,350	--	106	386	2,490
Sweden	1,310	1,310	438	2,440	--	--	1,740	3,750
Switzerland	(2)	667	409	2,640	--	--	410	3,310
Tajikistan	--	96,700	--	--	--	--	--	96,700
United Arab Emirates	8,310	45,800	--	172	40	509	8,350	46,500
United Kingdom	10	20,100	635	5,300	214	1,590	859	27,000
Venezuela	14,800	90,500	849	8,460	316	7,810	15,900	107,000
Other	713	30,100	16,900	129,000	3,200	32,800	20,800	192,000
Total	264,000	2,540,000	110,000	820,000	42,700	328,000	417,000	3,690,000

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 7
U.S. EXPORTS OF ALUMINUM IN AUGUST 2005¹

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	August	January-August	August	January-August	August	January-August	August	January-August
Australia	95	349	133	1,080	2	23	229	1,450
Azerbaijan	--	--	--	2	--	--	--	2
Belgium	1	583	964	5,160	--	214	965	5,950
Brazil	35	177	930	6,140	--	1,440	965	7,750
Canada	13,000	84,700	41,900	331,000	11,700	101,000	66,600	517,000
China	44	286	4,680	26,700	54,800	350,000	59,500	377,000
Czech Republic	--	--	36	227	--	--	36	227
Dominican Republic	--	10	43	300	--	--	43	310
France	(2)	821	810	5,530	--	45	810	6,400
Germany	168	626	772	5,600	--	256	940	6,480
Hong Kong	5	207	979	4,660	836	7,100	1,820	12,000
India	18	144	36	333	605	6,750	659	7,230
Israel	97	528	274	1,950	--	--	372	2,480
Italy	--	175	377	1,950	--	--	377	2,130
Japan	412	3,390	1,030	6,540	3,230	21,800	4,680	31,700
Korea, Republic of	54	761	928	9,420	8,010	86,500	8,990	96,700
Malaysia	6	22	206	5,160	40	87	252	5,270
Mexico	18,800	122,000	25,500	142,000	8,070	43,600	52,500	307,000
Netherlands	3	104	33	368	--	37	36	509
Russia	--	28	12	37	1	12	13	77
Saudi Arabia	--	8	2,170	21,000	--	--	2,170	21,000
Singapore	20	319	84	1,690	--	552	104	2,560
Spain	4	54	103	740	--	196	107	990
Sweden	--	9	42	283	--	--	42	292
Taiwan	24	206	1,120	6,350	4,440	34,700	5,590	41,300
Thailand	39	286	803	5,170	367	4,490	1,210	9,950
Ukraine	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	1
United Kingdom	31	257	1,600	11,000	18	172	1,650	11,400
Venezuela	--	12	356	1,260	--	21	356	1,290
Other	227	3,220	3,800	24,900	3,360	28,900	7,380	57,000
Total	33,100	219,000	89,800	627,000	95,500	687,000	218,000	1,530,000

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.